

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) As per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, Mining Plan duly approved, is mandatory for obtaining a mining lease. The Mining Plan provides for undertaking safe, systematic and scientific mining operation. As per Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 all mining operations have to be carried out in accordance with mining plan. In case of any failure in this regard, the Rules provide that an authorized officer may order suspension of all or any of the mining operations and permit only such operations as may be necessary to restore the conditions in the mines and as envisaged under the said Mining Plan.

(c) In view of reply at (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

Handing over of mines to foreign companies

466. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are actively considering any proposal for handing over some mines to foreign companies; and

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions laid down by the foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No, Sir. Under Section 5(a) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, only an Indian national or a company registered in India under Section 3(1) of the Companies Act, 1956 can be granted a mining lease.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Attracting FDI in mining

467. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's new mining policy aims to attract as much as Rs. 300 billion *i.e.* 6.5 billion of foreign direct investment in metals and minerals sector after overhauling a 49 year old mining law;